



Washington State Health Care Authority
Prescription Drug Program

P.O. Box 91132 • Seattle, Washington 98111-9232
206-521-2027 • FAX 206-521-2001 • TTY 360-923-2701 • www.rx.wa.gov

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Dear Interested Party,

Following recommendations by the Washington State Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T), the agency directors of the Department of Social and Health Services - Medical Assistance Administration (DSHS-MAA), Labor and Industries (LNI), and the Health Care Authority - Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) have named Omeprazole Over-the-Counter (OTC) as their preferred drug in the drug class of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs). This change will be effective May 1, 2004.

Decisions will be forthcoming regarding the P&T Committee's recommendations on Estrogens and Beta Blockers by February 27, 2004.

The Therapeutic Interchange Program (TIP) for prescribing practitioners who become "endorsing practitioners" has been delayed until May 1, 2004. At that time all three agencies, the Department of Social and Health Services – Medical Assistance Administration (DSHS-MAA), Labor and Industries (LNI), and the Health Care Authority (Uniform Medical Plan) will implement TIP.

If you have other questions or comments regarding this announcement, please contact Erika Barker at (206) 521-2027 or by email at pdp@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Duane Thurman
Senior Prescription Drug Program Manager